

File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R) 1990-2009/Feb 27

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DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R)

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07076453 Supplier Number: 59636829 (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)

iPlanet unveils corporate portal.(iPlanet E-Commerce Solutions' iPlanet Portal Server software)(Product Announcement)

Cox, John

Network World, p14

Feb 21, 2000

ISSN: 0887-7661

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TEXT:

There's a new portal player in town.

iPlanet E-Commerce Solutions, formerly the Sun-Netscape Alliance, has

updated its old Webtop product, turning it into a full-blown portal development and deployment platform.

The new Solaris-based iPlanet Portal Server software sets up connections with back-end data and applications, and lets authorized users work with them through a Web browser.

A set of programming interfaces will let other software vendors and Web-based information vendors connect their offerings to the portal as well.

Through its personalization features, both users and systems administrators can determine what information is presented. "It's a great way to unify information resources," says Tom Koulopoulos, president of The Delphi Group, a Boston e-business consulting firm.

Portal Server is designed to be the foundation of the corporate Web site, and a development tool set for building and changing that site. For instance, the new code handles jobs such as managing content on portals, representing information as objects that can be edited, recombined and reused, and working smoothly with third-party applications. Portal Server also includes iPlanet Directory Server and Web Server products, and works with iPlanet Applications Server.

"The portal is a simple concept to understand," Koulopoulos says.

"However, when it comes to applying it, you are in effect inviting customization of each desktop. And when you do that, you have data-integrity issues and change-management issues. No one really understands yet how complex this can be."

Once a firm licenses Portal Server, it loads the software onto a Solaris server and configures it as the main Web site for its audiences.

Users are authorized to access certain areas of the portal. Once logged on, they can share files, data, e-mail, calendar schedules and so on.

An airline, for example, could use Portal Server as a consumer-oriented Web site, letting customers make reservations. But the portal's services also would let the airline set up information and transaction links with hotel and car rental chains. Those same services could be used to let pilots and flight attendants access schedule changes or alert frequent flyers about a new low fare or vacation package designed for them.

iPlanet Portal Server will be available in the second quarter, in several formats. Users can access it as a hosted service, called Custom Netcenter Hosted Service, for \$9.75 per user per month, with volume discounts. Pricing for the enterprise version, and for a version aimed at service providers, will be announced later.

iPlanet: www.iplanet.com

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PRODUCT NAMES: *7372682 (Internet Server Software)

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Automation)

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